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The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Suffragists in Council.

As we go to press the Annual Council Meeting of the 561 societies of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is assembling. Delegates from all parts of Great Britain are arriving in London to meet together to discuss and to settle the policy and affairs of their great Union. During the long years of the struggle for Women's Suffrage many and many a council has been held, and many and many a difficulty has been faced and vanquished; but never, in all the history of this movement, has the Council met at a time of such great importance. We are now approaching the realisation of our demands, and we have strong hope that we are even now upon the very eve of our first instalment. In this hope and expectation, and in the courage that it brings us, we bid the Council welcome.

Women's Suffrage in Ontario.

A Reuter telegram from Toronto states that interviews with leading members of the Ontario Legislature belonging to both parties indicate a practically unanimous sentiment in favour of Women's Suffrage in the provincial elections. It is probable that the Government will endorse a Women's Suffrage Bill submitted by a private member this Session.

Congress and the Women's Vote.

On the strength of written pledges received from successful Congressional candidates, the National American Woman Suffrage Association expresses confidence that there will be a vote this session on the Federal Suffrage Amendment in both Houses of Congress, and that the Amendment will be finally submitted to the States for ratification before the adjournment of the Congress just elected.

"The presence of Miss Jeannette Rankin, a former member of the Congressional Committee of the National Association, on the floor of the House during the coming fight for the Federal Suffrage Amendment, will be a tower of strength to us," says Mrs. Walter McNab Miller, of Missouri, first Vice-President of the Association.

U.S.A. Suffragists See Hope in National Senate Vote.

When fifty-four out of sixty-nine United States Senators voted "Yes" on the project of admitting women to a special referendum in the District of Columbia, Suffragists pricked up their ears. But when among the fifty-four men voting for Woman Suffrage such names as Senators Penrose, of Pennsylvania, Tillman, of South Carolina, Vardaman, of Mississippi, and Hughes, of New Jersey, appeared, National Suffragists began to feel that the chances for speedy advancement of the Federal Suffrage Amendment are greatly strengthened. Said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt: "I am particularly glad to observe that the old idea in the minds of so many Senators from the South that the franchise should not be forced on women without their being consulted is apparently dying away. A careful reading of the Congressional Record shows that there was no purpose to enquire of the women of the district whether they wanted the ballot or not. Fifty-four United States Senators voted that the women should be entitled to vote on this referendum. I am deeply thankful. We will now go ahead with our plans to ensure a two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives as speedily as possible, since we have evidently much more than a two-thirds majority in the Senate whenever we need it for the submission of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment."

"Hetty Sorrel."

An unsatisfactory case of "making an example" of a girl-offender occurred lately at Lincoln Assizes. A girl of eighteen charged with the murder of her infant aged three weeks, was sentenced by Mr. Justice Rowlatt to five years' penal servitude. It is difficult even from a very fully given Press report to understand the reason for this severity. The girl's mistress, a clergyman's wife, bore witness to the prisoner's "absolutely irreproachable character," and her kind and gentle nature, which evidence was borne out by the nurse of the workhouse infirmary where her confinement took place. Medical evidence and the prisoner's own statements showed that it was not proved that the baby's death had not been accidental. There was no proof that the child, which was found in the water, had been drowned. The evidence which seems to have weighed most with the judge was the poor child's agonising dread of taking her baby home, for she and her mother had not dared to tell her father of his daughter's condition.

No doubt the law allows the father of an illegitimate child to escape scot-free from all responsibility with regard to infant or mother; no doubt, too, it is a judge's office to interpret the law and not to rush it aside. But the very fact that it presses so very heavily and cruelly upon the woman only, usually inclines a judge (and quite rightly) to take circumstances into account. There is little indication that they were taken into account when this savage sentence was passed. Lover, father, and judge alike have had no mercy on the victim. It seems hardly credible that no appeal should be made on Annie Motson's behalf. Mr. Justice Rowlatt is reported to have said that he was there "to protect human life." Even so, the very last person of whom to make an example was surely the broken-hearted child, whom he has sent to mix with convicts and outcasts.

Military Work for Women in France.

We understand that a scheme has been devised for substituting women for men wherever possible in the Army, both in France and England. The scheme will be carried out by a branch of the Adjutant-General's Department, known as A. G. 11, which will have its Headquarters at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, the heads of the department being Colonel

Leigh Wood and Mrs. Chalmers-Watson, M.D., while Mrs. Gwynne-Vaughan will act as Controller in France, in charge of all the women working for the Army over there. This organisation will work in direct communication with Mrs. Tennant, Director of the Women's Branch of the National Service, now installed at St. Ermin's Hotel, where all applications should be made, as the Army authorities will draw on this department for supplies of candidates as they are needed.

Drastic Preventive Measures for Venereal Disease.

A Criminal Law Amendment Bill to make further provision with respect to the punishment of sexual offences, and the prevention of indecent advertisements, was presented to Parliament by the Home Secretary on February 17th. As we are going to press earlier than usual this week, owing to the Council Meeting, we are obliged to content ourselves with publishing some of the main provisions of the Bill without comment :—

A person who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall not have sexual intercourse with any other person or solicit or invite any other person to have such sexual intercourse.

Where any person is convicted of any sexual offence the Court may, if they think fit, for the purpose of ascertaining whether that person is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form order that person to submit to such medical examination and tests as may be requisite for that purpose. If the person is a female the examination and tests shall be conducted, if she so desires, by a female doctor.

Where a person has within three months before the commission of any alleged offence under this section received a written notice, either on an examination ordered under this section, or while under compulsory detention in any prison or other institution, from a duly qualified medical practitioner, that he or she is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form, that person shall be deemed to have been so suffering at the time when the alleged offence was committed, unless the contrary is proved.

The Suppression of Disorderly Houses.

The sections of that Act relating to summary proceedings against the keepers of disorderly houses and the determination of the tenancy of such houses, are extended to include premises used "for the purposes of habitual prostitution." A person summarily convicted for keeping a disorderly house will be liable to the following penalties :—

(*a*) To a fine of £100 or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for three months.
(*b*) On a second conviction, £250 or six months.
(*c*) On a third or subsequent conviction, £500 or twelve months.

In addition, the offender may, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, be required to enter into a recognisance, with or without sureties, to be of good behaviour for twelve months, or in default to undergo a further three months' imprisonment.

The bill makes universal the power to impose a month's imprisonment on persons convicted a second time of loitering or solicitation.

The Protection of Young Girls.

Acts of indecency with girls under sixteen will be punishable, on conviction on indictment, by two years' imprisonment, and on summary conviction by six months' imprisonment, and it will be no defence to prove that the girl was a consenting party. If a charge of having committed a specific sexual offence fails, the person concerned may nevertheless be found guilty of an offence under the above clause and be punished accordingly.

Reasonable cause to believe that a girl was of or above the age of sixteen will be no defence to a charge under Sections 5 or 6 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the limit of time within which proceedings may be taken will be twelve months.

Indecent Advertisement.

The Indecent Advertisements Act, 1889, is considerably strengthened : "A person who publishes by way of advertisement, or causes to be so published, any picture or printed or written matter which is of an indecent or obscene nature, shall be guilty of an offence under Section 3 of that Act and punishable accordingly.

With the Tide.

"Take heed, for the tide of time has risen;
It is full, not yet, but now so high
That spirits and hopes long pent in prison
Feel round them a sense of freedom nigh."

The auguries of to-day are full of hope. With us stand, let us say it proudly and thankfully, the statesmen who now, as in the past, look beyond immediate party politics and think in terms of a nation's welfare, and know that the building up of the State begins in the home. Day by day and week by week new supporters and friends come out into the open, and frankly and generously acknowledge that they are convinced that Women's Suffrage is a necessary and timely reform; and lastly, night by night comes Nicodemus, declaring his adherence in private, and giving the assurance that "never again will I say a word to oppose Women's Suffrage." These are signs of the times, and the times have changed.

Only three years ago, we seemed to have reached a sort of dead-lock of assent. Party politicians, whose ideas begin and end with the turn-over of votes at the next election, put forward no serious objections against the enfranchisement of women, but they treated it as more or less of academic interest. It did not interest *them*. The action and reaction of cross currents in politics is to them the all important matter, for by their special knowledge of these intricacies they live.

The enfranchisement of women, however desirable from the point of view of the national interest, would not (they calculated) put their party in power, or even bring in any given candidate. Therefore Women's Suffrage was not a practical proposition. So the specialists argued and carried their point, and it seemed as if only a world-upheaval would break down their barricades, and shake them out of their complacent acquiescence in things as they were. And with a world-upheaval, a miracle was wrought. The ancient masculinist and anti-Suffragist strongholds proved no more tenable than the walls of Jericho, or the defences of Namur. The old out-of-date theory that women were useless in war-time, and so (by some extraordinary process of non-reasoning) should have no voice in nation-building in time of peace, vanished at the first shock of contact with stern realities.

"I cannot think what the women were doing before the war," said a foreman-engineer in a big munition-works the other day. "I gave a girl a bit of teaching yesterday, and after three hours, here she is—doing the job as well as if she had been at it for months. Where *were* they, that's what I want to know. Not to use my own expression, ma'am, I think they were 'cribbed, cabined, and confined!'" Is he not right? Were not the ways of usefulness barred across; "No women admitted" inscribed above all the doors; "For men only" placarded at all the entrances and avenues of public service? On every possible pretext and plea women, before 1914, were either forced to wait and watch while others acted, or (if they were not content to sit still) to see the patient work of years swept away at the last moment by some vested interest endowed with the voting power which gives political leverage. The interests of women? These had to wait indefinitely; the interests of the children, most important of all, were of less consequence than those of trade monopolies. The interests of the nation? Ah! out of the chaos and misery of the world upheaval, a new knowledge has come to us all; the very foundations of the State have been revealed by the earthquake; and it is obvious now to those who lived in darkness that the Commonwealth—the Human City—is built in the hearts of men and women, and that no limit can be placed to the service of woman.

Perhaps nothing else, not certainly another quarter of a century of haggling and grudging concessions, could have accomplished all that has been done by what is verily a change of heart. Slowly, by the help of the best men of the age, the disabilities hampering women's service have been mitigated, and now and then removed—a loophole left there, an admission here. The work went on desperately slowly for those who realised the waste of time, power, and life that was going on. And now the sudden new sense of National Unity, pouring in and through us like a flood, is sweeping away obsolete distinctions, and with them the traditional sex-privileges which are hampering the national energies, and wasting the nation's strength.

In the name and for the sake of National Unity, Women's Suffrage is desired by the country at large and by a great majority in Parliament. The tide is with us. Let all unite in the demand, let us all pull together and bring in Women's Suffrage with the tide.

Fetters.

"Fetters of gold are still fetters, and the softest lining can never make 'em so easy as liberty."—MARY ASTELL. *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies. 1694.*

"The most benevolent of Governments imposed from outside can never equal self-government in personal or political value, least of all when the men and women of a country have long reached a high standard of conduct and intelligence, and have recently displayed an unequalled national devotion."—A Memorandum to the Speaker's Conference, from the National Council for Adult Suffrage.

The first of these quotations is from a little book written two and a-quarter centuries ago, appealing for the better education of women and the foundation of a women's college. The second is from a pamphlet issued last October. Between them lies the whole history of the women's movement in England. How far has that movement carried us? Where exactly do its supporters stand to-day, and where may they hope to stand when they find themselves, in the words of the pamphlet quoted above, "confronting the vast problems which will arise when the war ends, and in which the whole future of our civilisation is involved?"

Mary Astell was right in demanding education for women. Education was the essential first step, and in the year 1694 she was enlightened enough to know it. But it took something like two hundred years to convince her countrymen and countrywomen of the necessity of taking seriously the aims of her *Serious Proposal*.

The struggle to secure education was slow and painful, but there are few of us who would maintain, as Miss Meikle, a feminist of the latest type, maintains, that it was not worth while. Without it the widening of opportunity, the progress towards free development, which is the real aim of the feminist movement in all its forms, would have been hampered at every turn. With it we are still far from our goal; both men and women are bound by their own individual and social limitations, but the limitations imposed by men upon women are fast breaking down just because women themselves have learnt to see through them. It is only necessary to read a page of Mary Astell's charming prose and a page of Miss Meikle's book to see how far education has carried us.

Since the beginning of the war the breaking down of barriers has continued apace. A great and unexpected opportunity has come to women in the industrial world, and they have not been slow to take it. For the period of the war the restrictions of law and custom have fallen away with regard to almost all kinds of industrial and professional work; training schemes of all sorts have been thrown open to women, so that the missing link in the chain of education—the link of technical instruction—is now nearly complete. The question is, how far will an attempt be made to fasten restrictions upon women again when the war ends? And how far, on the other hand, will those legal restrictions which are still imposed upon women as distinguished from men be removed?

These last are mainly three: the laws with regard to divorce, with regard to the control of children, and with regard to political representation. In all of these the existing law is a survival from an earlier phase of society. They belong to the period when women could not earn and could not own for themselves, when every woman, and therefore every child, was the property of some man, owned and paid for by him. At the time of the Reform Bill, when the words excluding women from the political franchise were introduced, the phrase embodied what seemed a natural classification rather than any act of exclusion. It was not contemplated that women (any more than children) could want votes. The franchise law was merely one of countless exclusions, most of which were not touched by Acts of Parliament at all. To-day only such barriers as did take legislation form can stand against the tide. The firmest and most formidable of these—the barrier which supports and strengthens all the rest—is the political exclusion of women. The franchise laws, which had their origin in the formal recognition of a common sentiment, have come to be the last stronghold of anti-feminism. But in the new conditions which will arise after the war we may find that the anti-feminism of the future will not be merely a survival of prejudice and sentiment, but that it will be reinforced by an organised opposition to women based upon the fear of industrial competition.

The whole policy of imposing restrictions may, in fact, be defended from three different points of view. It may be said that it is for the good of a certain class of people—for example, women—to be restricted in matters about which it is held that they are not capable of judging for themselves. This is the theory of the "soft lining" which is commonly applied to children and savages and other classes of people who, for one reason or another, are not fully responsible. It is the theory which Mary Astell was the first to recognise in its application to women.

Again, the restriction of one class only may be upheld on the ground that it is for the good of society. This has been the theory of Acts regulating married women's work and of other special industrial legislation. It has been maintained that although such regulations may not be desired by the women themselves, yet it is for the benefit of the nation at large that married women should only be allowed to work under certain conditions. There are still anti-suffragists to be found who declare that they oppose the enfranchisement of women on the ground that the country would suffer if women had the vote.

But restrictions may be enforced from a third motive: not for the benefit of society in general, nor for the benefit of the class upon which they are imposed, but for the benefit of some other and more powerful class. It is possible that these will be the fetters put upon women in the future. Hitherto the industrial exclusion of women has been achieved by tacit understanding rather than by legislation. But the pledges given to Labour, with regard to the reintroduction of trade union rules after the war, have created a new situation, in so far as they involve legislative action which may give a direct industrial advantage to men at the expense of women.

Women will have to face two difficulties: the desire of the men, prompted chiefly by a fear of undercutting, to exclude them altogether from the better paid forms of employment, and the desire of employers to retain them as cheap labour. The employers' position will be strengthened by the fact that war conditions have brought about the substitution of semi-skilled for skilled processes on an extensive scale. It is fairly certain that both men and employers will use whatever political power they can bring to bear upon this question of readjustment, while the women's interests, as long as women themselves remain unenfranchised, will have no political representation. The way will thus be clear for the forging of new fetters.

Among the various proposals which are likely to be brought forward as a solution of, at least, part of the industrial problem is the fixing of a legal minimum wage for all women. This may be looked upon as a fetter of the golden variety, and its lining may perhaps be soft; but it is only too likely to prove less easy than liberty. If the minimum wage is high enough to satisfy the demand for equal pay for men and women—that is, if it forces the women's standard up to the present level of men's wages—it will, in some trades, have the effect of driving out women from employment. For this reason the fixing of a high minimum is being advocated by certain male trade unionists. This exclusion of women may, or may not, be compensated by their employment in other trades: it may, or may not, be a desirable thing. The fact remains that the imposition by law of restrictions which affect women, directly or indirectly, is nothing less than the fixing of fetters, unless women have an equal voice with men in determining their scope. And a minimum wage is only one out of many industrial restrictions likely to be enforced by legislation after the war.

Apart altogether, therefore, from the moral value, whether personal or political, of self-government, women have now a stronger material claim than ever before to a share in the direct control of legislation. And for this very reason we may find that the nature of the opposition to their claim has changed. Sentiment could be met by sentiment; but now that this national crisis has carried us beyond sentimental distinctions, and has shown that the material interests of women are no less vital to themselves and to the nation than the material interests of men, we must be prepared for opposition in a different form. It is possible that those who in the future still uphold the principle of the restriction of women by men, will uphold it not because they doubt the abilities of women, but because they fear them; not because women are too weak, but because they are too strong. But the stronger the women of a country become the better for that country as a whole. Any attempt to restrict women which has the effect of hampering them as workers must reduce the working efficiency of the whole nation and cannot, in the end, bring any real advantage to men.

E. BURNS.

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Cleansing the Life of Our Cities.

Some Suggestions.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's letter in *The Times* of February 6th, on "Soldiers' Perils in the London Streets," has led to a number of suggestions being put forward for cleansing the life of our cities. All are at one with Sir Arthur in his demand for a more strenuous method of dealing with the social evil, but there is the greatest difference of view as to the best method to adopt. The main cleavage of opinion is between people who aim at rooting out prostitution, with all its attendant ills, and those whose chief idea is to safeguard men from contracting disease. Probably many of the latter would not admit that they desire to see promiscuous indulgence made as safe as possible for men—some, indeed, would be deeply shocked at such an interpretation being put upon their views—but this is what their suggestions really come to.

The Suppression of Disorderly Houses.

With Sir Arthur's plea for the suppression of disorderly houses there is general agreement, several writers pointing out that the penalties enforced against brothel-keepers are most inadequate, the magistrates seldom using their powers to send these people to prison, but contenting themselves with imposing a fine that the offenders can well afford to pay. Others urge that solicitation should be more stringently followed by arrest. Mrs. Barnett protests against the streets being allowed to be used as "the unrented premises of a shameful trade." "We do not," she writes, "allow other trades to be carried on in the public highways. Why is this one to be an exception?" Another correspondent points out the necessity for appointing a large number of women police to co-operate with the male force in the task of checking this trade. So far, only a few have been appointed for this work, but the result justifies their utilisation on a much larger scale.

Labour Colonies for Prostitutes.

Several correspondents agree with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in advocating the segregation of prostitutes as the best method of improving the state of the streets, some desiring a return to the Old C.D. Acts, while others suggest that work colonies, somewhat on the lines of those already tried for dealing with habitual vagrants, should be started for prostitutes. But the Bishop of London writes a strong protest against any revival of the "antiquated and discredited plan of the segregation and examination of women," which, as Flexner's *History of Prostitution in Europe* proves beyond question, actually increases the disease. This method, the Bishop reminds us, was finally condemned at the great Brussels Conference held before the War. The Executive Committee of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases also rejects any proposal for the segregation of prostitutes.

Sir Arthur explains, however, that he did not mean, when he spoke of "internment," merely confining prostitutes to a special area under State regulation. His idea was to place them in camps or settlements "where they could do honest national work under good conditions, without danger of their spreading either moral or physical contagion." The complete separation of prostitutes from the rest of the population for a considerable period of time has, he says, never been tried, as far as he is aware, here or elsewhere.

Such a scheme as this is, of course, very different from the segregation of diseased prostitutes until they are cured and deemed fit to ply their loathsome trade again, or their segregation in a special area for the purpose of carrying on their trade, under State recognition and control. It will doubtless have the sympathy of many people who are strenuously opposed to any revival of the medical examination of any class of women unless coupled with equally drastic measures for protecting women and children from infection by men.

In the early days of the war, The Common Cause pointed out the futility of punishing prostitutes by a short term of imprisonment, and urged that women found guilty of soliciting should, instead, be given interesting work under humane supervision.

Women who hang about stations and camps to tempt our soldiers are, as Sir Arthur says, "the enemies of their country," responsible for impairing the efficiency of our fighting forces to a very considerable extent; and it is therefore wrong that they should be at large. Merely to harry them from one place to another is as useless as it is cruel. In our prisons criminals have shown the greatest keenness in doing work in connection with the war. Might not a similar spark of patriotism be kindled in the prostitute, if she were given some means of serving her country instead of injuring it? But the internment of convicted prostitutes would have only a small and temporary effect in improving the state of our streets. A number of young men would be saved from immediate temptation—and that is certainly worth doing—but, as Dr. Helen Wilson points out in an article in *The Times* of February 19th, "If every known prostitute could be interned to-day, there are vicious men always manufacturing new ones. While the masculine demand persists, it is folly to think that the supply can be cut off."

"In both sexes," writes Dr. Wilson, "the ranks of the vicious are continually being recruited from among the waverers. Many of the unscrupulous "harpies" of to-day were merely irresponsible flappers a year ago—and the transformation could not have been effected without the help of evil men. The military hospitals find that a large proportion of men contract infection from very young girls; and social workers tell us much of these girls, seduced and infected before they are sixteen."*

Better Discipline of Soldiers.

It is absurd to place the whole responsibility for evil upon the women. The Bishop of London maintains that far more could be done by the military authorities, on their side, in restraining the men. He ridicules the idea that all soldiers "are poor innocent lambs led to the slaughter," and advocates making the contracting of venereal disease a military offence. This view is supported by the House Governor of the London Hospital, who considers that there should be some penalty for "the man who ought to be in the trenches and is not there because he has contracted a certain disease, and has done it with his eyes open. We are told that at least 30,000 men are not at their posts daily who ought to be, and that their absence is entirely due to these diseases.

The military correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, while rejecting the proposal to treat the victims of venereal disease as offenders against military law, says: "The sensible preventive measure is to limit the scandalously large number of soldiers on furlough who are drifting about London and other large centres of population without any creditable object, and with more pocket money than they know what to do with. . . . They should be provided with healthy recreation in their garrisons and given leave only for the *bonâ fide* purpose of returning to their homes."

An officer suggests that the friendless state of many of the Overseas' troops exposes them to special temptations. A good deal has been done in the way of providing hostels and private hospitality for these men, yet many seem to have no idea where to go or what to do to amuse themselves. Is it not possible to put up conspicuous notices in all the chief stations giving directions as to where Overseas' soldiers can be received?

Closing the Public Houses and Sending Back Undesirable Aliens.

Several writers urge the closing of the public houses, pointing out that it is when the men have had too much to drink that they most readily yield to temptation. In the same way, a girl's first lapse is often caused by drink, in many cases quite a small quantity sufficing to throw the girl off her balance.

The repatriation of undesirable aliens on a much more thorough scale than has hitherto been carried out is another measure suggested. A petition to the Newington Licensing Justices states that out of thirty-five charges for managing, or assisting to manage, premises in Lambeth and Southwark for immoral purposes thirteen were laid against foreigners, some of whom were the wives of alien enemies actually interned, and it has been stated that there are 40,000 foreign prostitutes in London alone. This estimate may be exaggerated, but there are certainly a large number, and their shipment to their land of birth should be carried out without delay, even if in order to escape liability to repatriation they have married men of British nationality.

An Equal Standard for Men and Women.

A very drastic programme for dealing with the social evil has been drawn up by a Special Purposes Committee, appointed by the Hammersmith Borough Council to report on the public morals of the district. This enlightened Committee have realised what has always been maintained in The Common Cause; that

*The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on Saturday, aims at the better protection of girls under 16.

punishment of one sex only touches the mere fringe of the evil, and is of little or no use in combating the diseases for which it is responsible.

Among the recommendations the Committee put forward are the following :—

"A man who, knowing the injury he is likely to inflict upon his wife and children, and the community generally, consorts with prostitutes deserves to be regarded as no less criminal than the brothel-keeper and the prostitute. At the present time such men altogether escape legal liability, and inasmuch as, in many cases, they are directly responsible for the disease and death that assail thousands of women and children, we are most strongly of the opinion that men found in the company of prostitutes, on premises to which it is proved that they have resorted for immoral purposes, should be made amenable to the law, and made liable to prosecution and penalties."*

Unfortunately, the Committee of the Council which met to consider this report, were unable to get away from the old idea of harrying the female offender, while the male goes scot free; and were content with he following resolution :—

"To call the attention of the Government to the desirability of making an Order under the Defence of the Realm Act to deal with the question of the use of a house for the purpose of habitual prostitution of one woman who is the sole occupier of such premises, and to make representations to the police of the necessity of more stringently exercising existing powers regarding the resort of prostitutes to licensed premises, clubs, refreshment houses, and places of amusement, and the prevention of solicitation in the streets and public places."

It is, however, an encouraging sign that any body of men should have made the recommendations put forward in the report; and there are signs, too, of a more enlightened attitude among some members, both of the Bench and of the police force. Mr. Cecil Chapman, the Metropolitan Police Magistrate for Tower Bridge, has publicly expressed the view that there will never be any very great improvement until there is an equal standard for men and women, and this idea is gradually finding wider acceptance.

A. MAUDE.

[We are holding over a letter from "Anxious" on the question of the scheme for the treatment of venereal diseases, pending enquiries.]

TOWARDS THE END.

Voiceless†—and yet not wholly mute—
devoted women, near and far,
may not a well-wisher salute
your rising star?

Honour to those who early strove;
whose hopes, the Promised Land to see,
death reft—upheld in grateful love
their glory be!

You too that live—no chance disdain,
nor risk the part to grasp the whole:
they that secure the present gain
will reach the goal.

Whate'er the niggard hour bestows
the means of further winning brings:
the wise attend the ebbs and flows
of human things.

You who have borne the banner still
through many a dark and doubtful year,
and felt the alternate glow and chill
of hope and fear;

You who have faced unfaltering
the selfish plutocratic tribe,
the female Anti's venomed sting,
the witling's jibe;

you who, though many a time betrayed,
ne'er stooped to "militate" by rules
shameful alike to man or maid,
but fit for fools;

you who (though hard it oft has been)
your indignation still controlled,
in earnest dignity serene,
in justice bold;

strike now—consistent with your word—
in politics a noble note,
and incorruptibly record
an honest vote!

Aid us discreetly to elect
the makers of our common laws,
nor suffer traitors to neglect
our common cause!

W. E. HEITLAND.

* In New South Wales, since women got the vote, it has been made a penal offence for a man to solicit a woman for immoral purposes, just as it is for a woman to solicit a man. In Wyoming (where women were enfranchised in 1869) not only prostitutes but those consorting with them are liable to punishment.

† "Voiceless," the telegraphic address of the N.U.W.S.S.

AN APPRECIATION.

And then the women, what of them? I do not mean the girls, *their* splendid deeds have been in everyone's mouth. But the women, the elderly, faded ones, who were peacefully living their quiet lives before the war. A neat little maid used to open the door when you went to the "At Homes" and bridge parties, but at first—well, there was Dick, he had to have some little extras sent him at the front, and Tom, too, how could his mother do everything, with all those children, on her widow's pension? The parcels came to pretty well seven shillings a week, and that was what the little maid used to get. And so there was much talk of the difficulty of getting servants, until the comforting discovery came that others were managing the same way—by going without.

You see them waiting their turn in the provision shops, in the shabby coats and smart home-trimmed head-gear; very small parcels go into *their* baskets; really, they manage so well and are so busy they do not even need a fire until the afternoon. And what with endless knitting and war-depôt work and Intercession services, there is not much time to talk about it all. But they think, these women, and read and feel, and when their mite has been added to the War Loan they are as proud, inwardly, as though the King had thanked each one personally.

And now they will have a voice in the world's affairs, they are well over thirty-five years, and they are still householders and ratepayers. "It is to comic to think of Aunt Mab as a Suffragette," says irrepressible fourteen-year-old. And Aunt Mab herself was very hot upon the subject not very long ago, but somehow she has caught an echo of King George's: "Wake up, England!"

A spirit of self-sacrifice is teaching her to respond to her nation's needs to the utmost of her power, and opened up a world of wider interests.

And the world cannot afford to reject the living sympathies and prayers of even this small class of its inhabitants.

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Women as Motor-Drivers and Mechanics.

Before the war, though a good many women were able to drive their own cars, very few had taken up motor-driving professionally, and fewer still were able to do even the simplest of repairs. Now, some thousands of women are driving motor vehicles of different kinds—private cars, lorries, ambulances, and trade vans—and there is a growing realisation that if they are to make a success of their profession they must understand the mechanism of their cars, and be able to do, at any rate, as much in the way of repairs as would be expected from a male chauffeur. Women are also beginning to find an opening in running garages.

In taking up work of this kind, the Hon. Gabrielle Borthwick, who has a garage and school of motor mechanics and driving at Brick Street, Piccadilly, was a pioneer. She started a business in Slough for buying second-hand cars and converting them, employing four or five mechanics, but this undertaking did not prove a success financially, and she was obliged to give it up. A great deal of valuable experience was, however, gained in the course of carrying on the business, and she then started a garage at Northwood, living over it herself, in order to be on the spot, and doing hire work, repairs of all kinds, and the general work of a garage. She also began to take women apprentices to the motor trade, training women chauffeur-mechanics, gardener chauffeurs, and secretary chauffeurs. The war made it almost impossible to continue a garage in a small place, and she then transferred the work to London.

"I found," Miss Borthwick told me, "that many women prefer to be taught by other women, and I also found that a great number, when they have learnt to drive, want to learn about the mechanism of their cars, and to do simple repairs. Some of them were learning to drive their own cars, either for war work, to take out wounded soldiers, or in many cases to drive their husbands either to the station or to the office, the chauffeur having been called up. Others were qualifying to take on posts for Government work, munitions, &c. One and all demanded to know something of running repairs, tyres, tubes, vulcanising, patching, &c., and what to do in case of a breakdown—that is, what to look for if a car should stop on the road. To drive is one thing; to be able to keep a car in running order and do even the simplest repairs is quite another." This is where Miss Borthwick found that her own experience in running a garage came in useful.

"The chief trouble with the women was that they had trained in such a hurry that they had practically no experience, and when they had finished their course of instruction they could not afford to go on practising, and yet were not competent really to take a responsible post.

"I think two or three women joining together to run a garage can do very good work at the present time, and that there is no reason why they should not continue it after the war. They can keep cars for hire, acting as drivers themselves, do running repairs, sell motor accessories, and so on. They would not need to be highly skilled mechanics—these are seldom found in an ordinary garage, and one does not expect to get complicated repairs undertaken at a local depôt. Still, if really ambitious, they could go on training, but they must work first under a competent mechanic. I admit that such teaching is difficult to get, especially now, and even if a good mechanic who is exempt is to be had, he finds it difficult to work if surrounded by a group of questioners. The women are so anxious to get on, that it is difficult to make them understand that you cannot jump at once into a profession, and that there must be drudgery in learning the rudiments before attempting to take down and assemble any part of a car; but they are learning fast.

"There should also be a big opening on the land for women who understand machinery. Farmers are using machinery more and more for all sorts of purposes, and there is no doubt that in the near future many things will be done by machines that are at present done by hand labour. The small gas- and oil-engine is easy to run and to look after, as witness the fact that it is generally undertaken by the gardener, or odd man. I know one woman who has everything on her place (water pumped, &c.) done by a small engine; she makes her own electric-light, cooks on an electric stove, and has all her linen ironed by electric irons.

"Then, too, if waste land is to be brought into cultivation, there must be motor transport to and from the nearest big centre. Before the war I was contemplating running a car up to Covent Garden for general local tradesmen, because I could have done it at a profit, cheaper than the railway.

"I have had many enquiries for women who are able to look after the electric-light plant in country houses, and drive a car. Many people in the country are now putting in little electric-light installations, and this involves great possibilities. In America they have all sorts of ingenious ways of utilising electric power on a small scale.

"Already in this country we have vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and other apparatus worked by machinery, and there are likely to be many developments in the near future.

"Another branch of industry that women might well take up is painting cars. This is highly skilled work, requiring careful training, but there is absolutely no reason why women should not do it very successfully."

"These are all extremely interesting possibilities," I remarked. "In the meantime, I suppose you find a great demand for the girls whom you have trained as drivers?"

"Several of my pupils and apprentices," replied Miss Borthwick, "are driving for various Government departments; for the Ministry of Munitions, Army Service Corps, Metropolitan Asylums Board, and also for the Y.M.C.A., both here and abroad. I have lost two heads of my workshop, very clever mechanics, who are now with the Scottish Women's Hospital abroad, and I hear that these are doing very good work. They were both first-class drivers and mechanics. Others have private posts, some as gardener-chauffeur, and others as companion-chauffeur. Some are driving doctors, some have bought cars, and taken them out to drive for canteens abroad."

"And do you find that, as a rule, your pupils can obtain the same rate of pay as men?"

"Yes, in every case my particular pupils are earning the same wages as men; but I believe this is not always so. I have already started a Society for women drivers and mechanics, one object of which is to start a hostel or club for those who live at a distance, or who have no home in London." M. M.

Reviews.

With the Russian Wounded. By Mme Gregor Alexinsky. Translated by Gilbert Cannan. (T. Fisher Unwin. 2s. 6d. net.)

A peculiar interest attaches to this beautiful book. For it is the story of a spiritual quest. The writer, a woman doctor, and the wife of the well-known writer on Russia, went out soon after the outbreak of war, to resolve the questions which disquieted a Socialist's conscience, "knowing that formulæ cannot convince a mind beset with doubts, and that only facts have the real power to convince." Was Russia doing right or wrong? What were the thoughts and beliefs of the men who were drawn into the war? Through the record, taken from her letters of daily life on a hospital train, runs the undertone of questioning and also of a growing faith. It transfigures all the homely and medical details, all the horrors and tragedies of experience. Dr. Alexinsky was in charge of a section of the train staffed entirely by women, which went to and fro between the base, or even the battlefield, and Moscow or Petrograd, a nine days' journey distant. She went more than once under fire, for the Red Cross train was bombed by the Germans. She also tended wounded Austrians and Germans, and saw the unvarying goodness of the Russian soldier to the "enemy." "Our soldiers have given me, an 'intellectual,' a lesson. They have reminded me that I am only a sister of charity," she writes, when her men begged her to ask the Austrian wounded where they came from! "Well, well, so he has a wife," they said, pointing to an Austrian. "He has three children, and his wife wept when he went away to the war! Just like us!" they said, sympathetically; and the Austrian and the "morose" and taciturn German "enemy" always met with kindness from fellow-sufferers. It is difficult to select one passage rather than another, but perhaps the loveliest page in the book refers to a watch besides two dying men, whom Mme Alexinsky tried to cheer. "'You will be given the Cross of St. George.' 'No, Sister,' one of the men said, with a grave face. 'Soon I shall have another cross—a big, wooden cross.' He was right, but I felt I ought to tell them something, and I talked to them, not about themselves, for whom there was little left, but of the cause for which they were suffering. . . . . It was the first speech I had ever made in favour of the war. It seemed to me that all I had said was useless and out of place, and that the personal suffering of these men could not be relieved by words. It seemed to me cruel on my part to talk so to men who knew better than I what war is. But, strange to say, when I left the carriage, the men called after me fervently, 'Thank you, Sister! You have put a good heart into us again. Thank you, dear Sister!'" Another day and a night and the soldier had his cross—the "big, wooden cross."

Women in War. By Francis Gribble. (Sampson Low. 7s. 6d.)

The greater part of Mr. Gribble's book—written before the war—deals with the stories of women who have taken an active part in warfare, on the battle-field, in hospitals, and in the council chamber. A supplementary chapter added since the author's return from internment as a civil prisoner in Germany brings the story down to the date of the murder of Miss Cavell, and gives some impressions, gathered behind the enemy's lines, of the attitude taken by German women in the great war. Women's war work, Mr. Gribble gathered, has been less efficient in Germany than here, and also more capricious. He gained the impression, too, from what he heard and saw behind the lines, that there are, among German women, a much larger number of pacifists than among the Allies—women who regard the war as "a vulgar, unprofitable, and bloody quarrel provoked by the Crown Prince, a person whose private character was that of an unconscionable reprobate."

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Women's Vote in Norway.

How much better this Suffrage compromise is than what we accepted in Norway! This was my first impression when I saw the proposals of the Speaker's Conference. We got the vote based on taxation in 1907.

A limited Suffrage Bill was supported by a Coalition Government formed for the supreme national crisis of 1905, when the union was dissolved. The Government's attitude was directly influenced by the women's patriotic stand when they backed up Parliament during the crisis by a referendum to all the women of the country to vote for Norway's freedom. The first Parliament of free Norway gave women the vote.

The Bill proposed that all women over twenty-five years should have the vote who had lived in the country for five years and paid taxes of a minimum income of fifteen pounds in country districts, or of twenty pounds in the towns, and all married women over twenty-five years whose husbands paid taxes of the same income level. The Liberal and Labour parties voted first for Suffrage for all women over twenty-five years—on the same conditions as for men. They were in a majority in Parliament, but as a Bill changing our constitutional law needs a two-third majority, this was not sufficient to carry this Bill, because the Conservatives would only support a limited Bill.

Women were divided on this question. Some wanted adult suffrage or nothing; the greater part welcomed a Bill which would break down the sex-barrier, realising that adult suffrage could not be carried. Some women only wanted a limited Bill and nothing else.

The Democratic parties in Parliament were in doubt if they should accept the compromise. It was calculated that two-fifths of all the women over twenty-five years would be excluded. An income of twenty pounds a year seems, indeed, a low level, but it excluded practically the great part of servants or other members of the household of the peasants—the small land-owners, who constitute the chief element of our people. And it excluded a great number of servants and industrial workers in the towns. The taxation basis was considered unjust in itself. It would exclude the poorest women, who were most in need of the vote to better their conditions, and who had more experience of the realities of life than the well-to-do women.

On the other hand, manhood suffrage had developed from the taxation basis. It could not be more degrading for women to be admitted as citizens in constantly growing groups, as the effect became known from experience.

When a limitation was to be found, they decided to take this compromise, taking the basis of women's municipal franchise. The admission of married women met with unanimous approval. No one would like to see married women, who do women's greatest work, to bear and educate children, and who generally work as hard as any direct wage-earner in their own homes, should be considered inferior to the single woman wage-earner. It was just the mother's influence, which was wanted above all.

The Democratic parties feared that this limited Bill would strengthen the Conservatives and work against their own political interest, but they wanted to secure the principle to open the way. It was hard for the Labour parties to vote for a Bill directly excluding their own women, but they took a magnanimous stand, and sacrificed preliminarily their own interests, trusting in the future vote for all women. The Bill was then carried by an overwhelming majority—ninety-three to twenty-three. The right to stand for election was carried at the same time.

The effect of women's vote after two elections was generally acknowledged to be so good that on June 12th, 1913, universal suffrage for women was given *unanimously* by our Parliament,

supported by the Liberal Government. In 1916, a Bill was passed to admit a woman to be a member of the Cabinet. They have previously got admission to all State offices on the same conditions as men—excepting those as clergymen, officers in the Army, and Consuls.

Population of Norway about two and a-half million.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1909.—Of women electors in the towns 73 per cent. voted; in the country, 40 per cent.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1912.—Total number of electors, 827,274—men (adult suffrage), 502,284; women (limited suffrage), 324,990; male majority of 177,294.

Of women electors in the towns 73 per cent. voted; in the country 50 per cent. Of men electors in the towns 72 per cent. voted; in the country 67 per cent.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1915.—The first election on adult suffrage for both men and women. Total number of electors, 1,134,349—women electors, 602,153; men electors, 532,196.

Women's majority of 69,967, or 53 per cent. of the electors.

In the ensuing elections only 59 per cent. of the electors voters were women. The result, accordingly, was a male majority of actual voters. Of men electors in the towns 74 per cent voted. Of men eletors in the country 67 per cent. voted. Of women electors in the towns 65 per cent voted. Of women electors in the country 43 per cent. voted.

There is a majority of women electors, but they do not vote as a sex against men, but on political lines. No woman has yet been elected member of Parliament, but several women have been elected proxies, to take the place of an M.P., if he is ill or absent from other reasons. At present four women are elected proxies.

The effect of women's vote has been to strengthen the family influence on legislation. The married man gets practically his vote doubled.

The questions of the health and vitality of the nation have come to the forefront, and resulted in important legislation to secure better conditions for the poorest mothers and their children.

ELLA ANKER.

A Serbian View of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The following account of the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was published in *Veleka Serbia* (Great Serbia), No. 262 (December 30th, 1916, O.S.; January 12th, 1917).

Describing how the Units hurried up to the help of Serbia during the great typhoid epidemic, the writer says:—

"Several medical Units arrived and took up the work where it was the most needed: in Valjevo, in Kragujevatz, in Mladonovatz. Abundantly supplied with medical and hospital personnel and material, they installed under their white hospital tents, they did not limit their work only to the hospitals; they willingly and devotedly gave help also to the civil population, especially those in villages and to the poor, to whom they gave drugs freely. They won quickly, with their devoted work and sacrifice, the hearts and sympathy of our people, who have a very distinct and deep-rooted sense of gratitude. The name of "Sister" ("Sestra"), as they are called, and which name was given them by our wounded with so much thankfulness, nobody has had so much right to this name in our country before.

"Even in the sad days of our tragedy they did not forsake us; some of them stayed behind in Serbia to go on helping our wounded and sick in the hospitals. Others helped our soldiers in the retreat until the last moment; in Kraljevo, Studenitza, Rachka, Prishtina, and further on, you could see the British sisters looking after our wounded. And here now on the Salonica front they are again with us, proud to enter with the Serbian Army first our liberated country.

"At present there are on the Salonica front three medical missions of the Scottish Women, who helped invaluably our wounded and sick soldiers. The first to arrive was the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Salonica, under Dr. A. Louise McIlroy. They came with the first French troops to the Salonica front, and worked till the retreat in Ghevgehli. Since that time they are working here. Slowly their hospital became fuller of Serbian patients, mostly severely wounded, who more especially required greater and expert surgical treatment. Besides the excellent professional medical staff, the hospital has splendid nurses and orderlies, and is supplied with the most modern appliances for all cases; besides surgery, there is everything for X-Ray and bacteriology. What help is in truth given here to our patients is summed up in the words of one of our sufferers for long years, who has been through many and various hospitals, but who says that he never was nursed as here, and that he did not dream that such help is possible. For the work and the help given in this hospital to our soldiers, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Alexander visited the day before Christmas the hospital, and was highly pleased and satisfied. In recognition he deigned to decorate the Chiefs of the Hospital with the Order of Saint Sava III. and IV., which they may wear with great pride.

"The second hospital to arrive here was again a hospital of the Scottish Women, under Dr. Agnes Bennett. At the same time arrived a flying transport column under Mrs. Harley, the sister of the famous General Lord French. The hospital is installed in Ostrovo, exclusively for the seriously wounded and the worst cases, and is supplied splendidly with surgical and sanitary personnel and material, also with X-Ray apparatus. During our operations on the Monastir front, this hospital, being the nearest great surgical institution, rendered unique services to our Army. The same can be said of the flying transport column, with its light ambulance-cars and women chauffeurs worthy of admiration, who evacuated a great number of our wounded from the Divisional Dressing Stations to the Hospital, driving through the practically impassable roads of the precipitous Kajmaktchalan. All the competent authorities rendered their tribute and recognition to this column for its work.

"Thanks to the active intermediary of the sympathetic and Serb-devoted Miss Agnes Beecham, the delegate of the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Committee, this flying column will be increased by several more motor-cars and one more travelling workshop, which will be of immense help for the transport of our wounded and sick soldiers in the future operations.

"The Hospital in Ostrovo was also visited by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince on the occasion of the opening.

"Also all the other military competent authorities gave every recognition to the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which they always accepted with great appreciation.

"That is, roughly exposed, the help of the Scottish Women in our fight for the liberation of our country. Besides the help given to us officially by Great Britain with their splendidly organised military hospitals, and the help sent by the British Red Cross Society, this help of the Scottish Women is very important in the material regard, but even more morally; it conquers definitely all our deepest sympathies for Scotland, and through her for the great British nation; and it shows in the highest degree the greatness and the importance of the *rôle* heroically taken on by the modern woman in this tragic fight of nations, races, and principle.

"Besides the immeasurable gratitude we Serbs feel towards the Scottish women for all their great efforts, help and care shown so ideally for our sick and wounded soldiers, we have learnt also to feel admiration for their heroism, their endurance, their manliness in this gigantic fight for right and liberty of small and weak against terrorism and oppression of the great and powerful. They are the best example that the greatness of the human being is in work for others, and in the help he is able to give to others." S.

LONDON UNITS SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

There is no further news of this Unit.

Funds are urgently needed for maintenance. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurers, the Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, and equipment to the Equipment Secretary, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.

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Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary: Miss Helen Wright.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The great women workers' demonstration was held in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, February 20th. A crowded audience and a magnificently representative platform united in urging upon the Government the introduction of an Electoral Reform Bill including provisions for the enfranchisement of women, and the announcement made by Mrs. Fawcett of the united action that is being taken by all sections of the Women's Suffrage movement was received with profound satisfaction. Full details of the meeting and reports of the speeches will appear in our next issue.

Council Meeting at the Chelsea Town Hall.

On Thursday morning, February 22nd, at 10.30, Miss Loudon, late Administrator of the Scottish Women's Hospital at the Abbaye de Royaumont, and Miss Moberly, late Administrator of the Millicent Fawcett Units in Russia, will give brief accounts of their work. Dr. King-Atkinson, who has recently returned from the Millicent Fawcett Unit in Galicia, will also speak on her personal experiences with this Unit.

The following appeal has been issued by Mrs. Fawcett to members of the National Union and others interested in its work :—

Dear Madam,—We write to you at a time that may prove to be the most important hitherto known in the history of Women's Suffrage.

The report of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform, backed up as it is by the unprecedented increase of public support both within and without the House of Commons, entitles us to expect with confidence that women will be included in any forthcoming Government measure of franchise reform. It is for our great Union to neglect nothing that can help to convert this expectation into a reality.

If the inclusion of women in the electorate before the end of the war can be secured, the greatest possible service will have been rendered to the country; for when the problems of reconstruction fall upon us, we believe that many serious difficulties and dangers may be averted if women are among the electorate. The fact that so many Suffragists have been called to give their time to other important work throws upon all supporters of our Cause an added obligation to give generously in money.

We must be prepared to do all that is required at this moment, and I confidently appeal for your support and beg you to send as large a donation as possible.

Yours truly,
Millicent G. Fawcett.

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Bangor W.S.S.		15	6
Farnworth W.S.S.	1	0	6
Paisley W.S.S.	1	12	0
Falmouth W.S.S.		19	0
Bolton W.S.S.	4	4	6
Wolverton W.S.S.		6	9
Chester W.S.S.		12	6
Maidstone W.S.S. (1916 3s. 6d. additional, 1917 12s. 9d.) ...		16	3
Launceston W.S.S.		8	0
General Service Fund Donations.			
Ilkley W.S.S.	5	0	0
Received for the Scottish Women's Hospitals	10	0	
	£929	10	5

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and *always* registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia.

Letters from Russia are more than ever delayed and uncertain, but we hear that Mrs. Elborough and Miss Holden had a very cheery Christmas with Dr. Stepney and her staff at Kazan. Everyone gave everyone else presents, and they were an amiable and happy family until an English pudding, designed by Mrs. Elborough, but executed by the Russian cook, proved to be an unexpected and novel feature, with unlucky results to those who partook of it out of politeness. The hospital for children at Kazan, it will be remembered, was adopted and financed by the West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation, who have already contributed about £1,000 for its expenses. Sheffield, too, has been very generous to Millicent Fawcett Units, and many other societies of the N.U. have given large sums, to adopt a nurse or for general expenses. Just recently, the Eastern Counties Federation sent £25 to name a bed in Galicia.

Other societies have sent parcels of splendid, warm clothing, and these, with crates of clothing from America and New Zealand, have at last all reached Russia, and are giving great comfort in this unusually cold winter. Miss Moberly sends the translation of a letter which has reached her from Kieff: "I send you greetings for the New Year and all my best wishes, and, at the same time, I ask you to accept the sincere and heartfelt thanks of myself and all my refugees for the wonderful clothes which you sent them. The clothes arrived so opportunely, on the very day on which we were celebrating their sad Christmas festival for these unhappy exiles. You should have seen their joy yesterday and to-day when Mme. Shlikayvitch (wife of the President of the Zemstvo) and I distributed the gifts to them: some simply could not find words for their gratitude, and they sent you and all the Englishwomen their most heartfelt thanks and gratitude. Once again I thank you and all the members of your society.—Yours, &c.,

L. Danilova.

FIFTY-THIRD LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	10,914	4	0
Mrs. Attlee	2	0	0
Eastern Counties Fed. for a bed in Galicia	25	0	0
Miss Mabel E. Bardsley ...	1	10	0
Miss R. T. Ridley		5	0
Miss Edith N. Rowe	1	0	0
Mrs. Macmillan	1	1	0
Mr. W. F. Oldham, Winnipeg (2nd donation)	2	1	8
Miss Florence Blood, per Mrs. Russell	2	0	0
Miss M. C. Martineau	3	3	0
Miss Ellen MacRae (3rd don.)	1	1	0
Mrs. Hedges	10	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Vane ...	1	1	0
Portishead W.S.S.:—			
Collecting box	1	15	0
Employees Asiatic Oil Co., per Mr. Kewley	1	12	2
Miss Lilian Hovey, collections at recitals	2	16	6
Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs	1	0	0
	£10,971	10	4

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selbourne, or to Miss Stirling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

A MEMORIAL FROM OXFORD.

An Appeal has been issued to the Press signed by thirty-seven distinguished Oxford men and women, who call upon the present Government and Parliament to give effect to the principle of Women's Suffrage They consider that, as the Speaker's Conference report, if carried into effect, will greatly enlarge the male electorate, there are grave objections to overlooking the claim of women, especially as Parliament will be unwilling, amid the varied and important tasks awaiting them at the end of the war, to reopen the question of electoral qualifications for a long period. The great services rendered by women, and their practical capacity and evident sense of public duty has convinced many; and the signatories believe that the voice of women should be heard in the national interest. They appeal to the Government "to give effect to the principle of Women Suffrage in such a form as may command the greatest measure of assent, as part of any scheme of electoral reform which may be introduced, rather than to leave the question to be raised at a later time amid the passions of Parliamentary controversy."

The signatories are:—

The Bishop of Oxford.
C. B. Heberden, Principal of Brasenose.
Rev. J. R. Magrath, Provost of Queen's.
Rev. H. H. Williams, Principal of St. Edmund Hall.
Miss Christine M. E. Burrows, Principal of St. Hilda's Hall.
Miss Henrietta Jex-Blake, Lady Margaret Hall.
Mrs. Bertha J. Johnson, Society of Oxford Home-Students.
Miss Eleanor F. Jourdain, St. Hugh's College.
Miss Emily Penrose, Somerville College
W. M. Geldart, Fellow of All Souls and Vinerian Professor of English Law.
F. Haverfield, Fellow of Brasenose and Camden Professor of Ancient History.
Gilbert Murray, Regius Professor of Greek.
C. S. Sherrington, Fellow of Magdalen and Waynefleet Professor of Physiology.
H. H. Turner, Fellow of New College and Savillian Professor of Astronomy.

H. SCOTT HOLLAND, Regius Professor of Divinity.
F. LL. GRIFFITH, Reader in Egyptology.
R. R. MARETT, Fellow of Exeter and Reader in Social Anthropology.
CYRIL BAILEY, Fellow and Tutor, Balliol.
SIDNEY BALL, Fellow and Senior Tutor, St. John's.
ERNEST BARKER, Fellow and Tutor, New College.
Rev. A. J. CARLYLE, Lecturer in Political Philosophy and Economics, University College.
Rev. J. ESTLIN CARPENTER, Wilde Lecturer in Natural and Comparative Religion and late Principal of Manchester College.
D. L. CHAPMAN, Fellow and Tutor, Jesus.
J. THEODORE DODD, J.P.
H. SANDERSON FURNISS, Principal of Ruskin College.
W. H. FYFE, Fellow and Tutor, Merton.
Mrs. T. H. GREEN.
Alderman HUGH HALL, J.P., Chairman of the Oxford Education Committee.
Rev. W. HAWKER HUGHES, Fellow, Tutor and Bursar, Jesus.
Lady MARY MURRAY.
Sir C. HUBERT H. PARRY, Hon. Fellow of Exeter, late Professor of Music.
C. GRANT ROBERTSON, Fellow of All Souls.
Miss A. M. A. H. ROGERS, Tutor of St. Hugh's College and Secretary of the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford.
Rev. W. B. SELBIE, Principal of Mansfield College.
Rev. JOHN H. SKRINE, D.D.
Miss ANNE W. THACKERAY, Secretary of Barnett House, Oxford.
Rev. J. M. THOMPSON, Fellow of Magdalen, Senior Proctor.

Suffrage Societies in Council.

The following resolution was passed on February 17th by a meeting held at Caxton Hall, representatives from the majority of societies for Women's Suffrage being present. The appended signatures are those received up to the time of going to press :—

"That we, representing the undersigned Societies, recognising that a Bill based on the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference will confer the Suffrage upon women, though not upon the terms for which we stand, urge the Government to introduce such a Bill without delay, provided that it contains, as an integral part, provisions for the enfranchisement of women."

Signatories :—

WINIFRED MAYO, Actresses' Franchise League.
MONICA WHATELEY, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
S. A. VILLIERS, Church League for Women's Suffrage.
MAUD SELBORNE, Conservative & Unionist Women's Franchise Association.
JANE E. STRICKLAND, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.
I. E. HARRISON, Hastings & St. Leonards W.S. Propaganda League.
EVA MCLAREN, Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.
HERBERT JACOBS, Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
ESTHER S. ROPER, National Industrial & Professional W.S.S.
MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
A. M. CHAPMAN, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.
FRANCES BALFOUR, Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage.
FRANCES H. SIMSON, Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.
BERTHA BREWSTER, United Suffragists.
A. COBDEN-SANDERSON, Women's Tax Resistance League.
C. DESPARD, Women's Freedom League.
ELLEN E. SMITH, Fabian Society (Women's Group).
GULIELMA CROSFIELD, Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.
MAY OGILVIE GORDON, National Union of Women Workers.
MARY LONGMAN, National Women's Labour League.
A. E. METCALF, Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.
FLORENCE DE FONBLANQUE, Women Marchers Qui Vive Corps.
MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES, Women's Co-operative Guild.
A. MAUDE ROYDEN, Women's International League.
CLEMENTINA BLACK, Women's Industrial Council.

"The Common Cause" Hut.

At the express wish of the Ministry of Munitions, THE COMMON CAUSE Hut, now being erected at Coventry, is to be of much greater dimensions than originally intended. It is, indeed, to be the biggest and best Hut that the Y.W.C.A. have yet erected—a Hut that its donors will be proud of, containing a rest-room, cloak-room, kitchen, bar, counter, and bath-rooms, with every convenience for the comfort and recreation of the workers. We thank our readers for the sums already so generously subscribed, and ask intending subscribers to send *without delay* to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	618	12	5
E. M.	2	2	0
Taunton Society W.S.S. ...	1	1	0
Miss C. M. Forster		5	6
Glasgow Society W.S.S. (two Members):—			
Mrs. Turner	10	0	
Miss Buchanan	2	6	
Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs	10	0	
Miss M. E. Higginbottam ...	1	1	0
	£623	12	5

[We greatly regret that an interesting biographical sketch of the late Mr. Thomas Haslam has been lost in the post, together with other matter intended for this issue of THE COMMON CAUSE.*]*

REVIEWS IN BRIEF.

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR 1915-16 shows the need for increased effort to save child life, in view of the markedly lower natural increase in population in 1915 than in 1914. In the year 1914 there were 362,354 more births than deaths in England and Wales. In 1915 this excess of births was only 252,201. There were 64,569 fewer births and 45,584 more deaths in 1915 than in 1914. There has been, since the war, a great increase in maternity and child welfare work, though some local authorities are still very remiss in this matter. The number of health visitors is steadily increasing, and, in many instances, they are being better paid. A great gap still exists, however, between the visitation of the infant and the medical inspection of the child at school, and there is need for a linking up of existing agencies, in order to secure continuous supervision.

A SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK, a prize essay by Miss Isabel Macdonald, A.R.San.I., and Miss Kate Cropper Atherton, A.R.San.I. (Royal Sanitary Institute, 1s.), sets out a complete and practical scheme of welfare work suitable for adoption by Local Authorities. Among the suggestions put forward is one for simple lectures to fathers, showing how they can help the mother in the home during the months of pregnancy.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE (John Bale, 6d. monthly) is a new magazine for workers among mothers and children. The first number contains a valuable article on "Maternity and Child Welfare Work in Birmingham," by J. Robertson, M.D., B.Sc., Dr. J. Shadick Higgins writes on "The Prevention of Measles Mortality," and Edith Neville on "Day Homes for the Children of Widows Obliged to Earn."

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GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS. WINDOW HANGINGS, CARPETS, RUGS, CHINTZES, :: AND CRETONNES. ::

Owing to our having a large reserve of colours at the outbreak of the war, we are in a position to dye in all the following colours :—Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Purple, Mauve, Dark Violet, Navy Blue, Royal Blue, Dark Green, Scarlet, Crimson, Claret, Plum, Dark Grey, and Black.

The finest and purest pre-war colours absolutely guaranteed.

Special attention is given to Mourning orders.

Instructions by Post or Telephone command immediate attention.

TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, cheques to be crossed Royal Bank of Scotland. Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria-street, Westminster, London, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per List to February 8th, 1917	167,911	1	6
Further donations, received to February 15th, 1917:—			
*Employees, Messrs. J. Poynter, Sons, & Macdonald, Shaw's Water Chemical Works	6	5	6
Anonymous	20	0	0
*Per Miss E. Mackintosh, collected in Kirkwall, for upkeep of "Orcadian" bed ...	13	0	0
*Per Miss Hilda Sim, Treas., Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent, towards upkeep of "Kingsfield" and "M.B.O." beds at Royaumont	25	0	0
One-third-share Free Gift Sale, Lower Ward of Renfrewshire Agricultural Society, per A. Douglas Murray, Esq., Sec. and Treas ...	388	5	4
*Miss Elizabeth Rae (monthly donation)		2	6
Mr. and Mrs. Dunn and Friends		15	0
*Gateshead W.S.S., per Mrs. Dunn, Hon. Sec.	1	5	0
The Stafford Women's Co-operative Guild, per Mrs. Molt, Hon. Treas., Stafford W.S.S.		5	8
Mrs. H. B. Luard	1	1	0
Miss Millar	1	0	0
*Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, towards maintenance of the "Armitage Hewitt" bed, Royaumont	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Muir, Hon. Treas., Troon W.S.S., proceeds from Cadet's Concert (£27 7s. 4d.), proceeds from At Home in Mrs. Muir's house (£22 12s. 8d.), for the re-endowment of the "Troon" bed ...	50	0	0
Miss Gill	0	5	0
Mrs. J. M. Hall, to maintain "Allan Hall" bed for another year (Corsica) ...	50	0	0
*Mrs. Steggall, to maintain "A Mother's" bed (Royaumont) for another 6 months	25	0	0
*Per Miss Low, further donations from the Pumpherston Oil Co.'s Employees	31	17	4
Mrs. Gibson	20	0	0
*Per Miss Bury, collections made at Mintlaw (£2), Employees at the Corporation Gas Works, Aberdeen, per Samuel Milne, Esq., (£7 1s. 4d.), Employees at Messrs. Davidson & Sons, Paper Works (£4), the War Relief Committee of the Consolidated Tool Co., per Messrs. Carmichael, Milne, and Treece (£10 10s.)	23	11	4
*Per Wm. Seggie, Esq., Hon. Sec., Soho Works, from Employees of Soho Works, Paisley, per Miss Shankland ...	3	0	0
L. St. Andrews	2	10	6
Per Mrs. Ellis Talbot, Sec., N.U.W.S.S., proceeds Amateur Operative Society's production of "Patience" ...	79	2	3
*Per M. E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., monthly subscriptions from Members of Birkenhead and District W.S.S., for "Birkenhead" bed at Royaumont (£3 1s.), donation from Mrs. Mellir (10s.) ...	3	11	0
Per W. Davidson, Esq., per Miss Kathleen Burke ...	500	0	0
Mrs. Fraser	2	0	0
*Per Miss Lucy H. Souter, further donations towards "Dec. Bed of Memories" (Dr. Inglis' Unit), towards "Jan. Bairn's Birthday" bed, Royaumont, "Dec." bed, Miss Crawford Stirling (10s.), Mrs. Forbery (£1 1s.), Miss S. S. Greenfield (3s.), Mrs. Howard (10s.), Miss Auld (5s.), Miss Simpson (5s.), Miss Maida Ivens (2s.), ...	2	16	0
"Jan. Bairn's Birthday" bed, Edith J. Nicholson (2s.), M. Mackay (2s.), John Scott (5s.), Miss Bella Garden (2s.), Mrs. Anderson (5s.), Ballater (2s. 6d.), Colin David Cochrane (5s.), proceeds of Concert, Girl Guides, per Miss Porteous (£10), Birthday of a Son Prisoner, Mrs. Munro (£1), Miss Minto (1s.), Miss B. McCulloch (2s. 6d.), Miss J. S. Smith and Mother (7s. 6d.), Miss L. Pittendright (5s.), Miss Thomson (2s. 6d.), L. S. (2s. 6d.), Misses MacGillvray (5s.)	13	9	6
*Per Miss Bury, Lecture at Dyce (£1 8s. 5d.), additional to Kintore collection (5s.), Tax on Entertainment refunded (17s. 8d.), Employees Marshall & Co. (9s.), proceeds of Lecture at Ellon (£4 14s. 6d.)	7	14	7
*Messrs. J. Munro & Co. ...	2	0	0
*Kelvin, Bottomley & Baird Ltd., their Workers and Staff, per C. W. Wainwright, Esq., Treas.	10	0	0
*Darlington W.S.S. per Miss A. Burtt Woodhead, Hon. Sec.	2	12	0
Further subscriptions from the Joint Committee of Girton and Newnham Colleges, per the Hon. Treasurers, Miss Elizabeth Lawder (£200), and Miss Isabel P. Scott (£325) ...	525	0	0
*Per Miss Bury, proceeds of Lecture at Strichen (£1 17s. 6d.), Collection made by Employees at Messrs. John Wilson & Co. (£1 2s. 6d.)	3	0	0
*Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy, Employees	6	5	10
Mr. John Shearer (for Destitute Serbians)	5	0	0
A Kilmarnock Man in South Africa (for Serbians)		10	0
*Employees, Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (53rd donation) ...	2	17	6
	£169,765	4	4

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Orcadian" (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Collected in Kirkwall, per Miss E. Mackintosh, 22, Dundas-crescent, Kirkwall, Orkney.
"Kingsfield" (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Per Miss Hilda Sim, Treas., Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent.
"M.B.O." (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Per Miss Hilda Sim, Treas., Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent.
"Armitage Hewitt" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, 24, Woodcote Valley-road, Purley, Surrey.
"Allan Hall" (Corsica) (further 1 year)	Mrs. J. M. Hall, Killean, Tayinloan, Argyllshire.
"A Mother's" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Mrs. Steggall, Woodend, Perth-road, Dundee.
"Dec. Bed of Memories" (Dr. Elsie Inglis' Unit) (further 3 months) ...	Per Miss Lucy Souter, Golspie Tower, Greenbank-crescent, Edinburgh.
"Jan. Bairn's Birthday" (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Per Miss Lucy Souter, Golspie Tower, Greenbank-crescent, Edinburgh.
"Greenock Edith Cavell, I." (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Miss Etta Shankland, Hon. Treas., Scottish Edith Cavell Memorial Fund.
"Greenock Edith Cavell, II." (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Miss Etta Shankland, Hon. Treas., Scottish Edith Cavell Memorial Fund.
"Scottie" (Dr. M'Ilroy's Unit, Salonica) (6 months)	Anonymous.
"Beauchamp" (Salonica) (further 6 months)	Mrs. Balfour, Dawyck Stobo, Tweddale.
"Charles Connell" (Royaumont) (further 1 year)	Per Mrs. C. B. Connell, 1, Lancaster-cresent, Kelvinside, Glasgow.
"Elizabeth Reid" (Royaumont) (1 year)	Per Prentice, 15, Eglinton-drive, Glasgow, per Miss E. Curtis, Greenock.
"Vive la France" (Salonica) (further 3 months)	Per Two Members of the Glasgow W.S.S.
"Ayrshire Farmers" Tent (further maintenance Dr. Bennett's Hospital in Serbia, £200)	Per Messrs. Thos. Donald & Sons, Salesmen and Auctioneers, Kilmarnock, per Mrs. Robertson, Kilmarnock.

FUEL ECONOMY

It is not so much the coal that is actually used as the coal that is wasted which goes to swell the fuel bill to such proportions. You cannot put out a coal fire immediately the necessity for it ceases. It must be left alight against the next occasion—and the coal so burned is so much fuel wasted.

The strongest arguments for gas as fuel are its ever-ready and complete efficiency and the elimination of all waste. Whether gas is used for cooking or for heating—in the gas fire, gas cooker, or gas water-heater—there never need be any waste of fuel. The gas can be turned *on* to supply an immediate need—turned *off* so soon as its work is done—or turned *down* if only moderate heat or an even temperature is required.

Also, there is no waste labour in the use of gas; and time and space—considerations of importance when every moment has its value, and where every square foot of accommodation has its price—are both economised.

But the argument that should appeal above all to the patriotic housewife is the fact that certain valuable by-products of gas manufacture essential to the turning out of high explosives are *conserved* by using gas as fuel, but *wasted* whenever coal is used.

All interested in Fuel Economy should consult the Secretary, British Commercial Gas Association, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

T. 219.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

HEADQUARTERS—2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

The Headquarters Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service beg to submit herewith an audited abstract of their Accounts for the second year of their work—October 1st, 1915, to September 30th, 1916.

In the Autumn of 1915 the reinvasion of Serbia, with the retreat and capture of the 1st and 2nd Serbian Units by the Austro-German Forces, and the consequent loss of both Hospital and personal equipment, threw heavy responsibilities upon the Committee.

At the urgent request of the Authorities in charge of the British Medical Mission and the Serbian Red Cross, the Committee became responsible for the medical arrangements in Corsica for the Serbian refugees and they opened a Hospital for them at Ajaccio.

Since that time two new Hospitals, with accompanying Ambulance Transport Columns, have been equipped and despatched—one, known as the "America Unit," to Macedonia, attached to the Serbian Army, the other to assist the Serbian Division fighting with the Russo-Roumanian Forces. The London Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals have made themselves entirely responsible for the latter, with the exception of the salaries, which are paid by Headquarters.

The Headquarters Committee of the S.W.H. are therefore responsible for:—

The 1st French Unit (Abbaye de Royaumont) ... ... 400 beds.
The 2nd French Unit ("Girton and Newnham"—Salonika) ... ... 300 ,,
The 3rd Serbian Unit ("Manchester and District Federation"—Corsica) 100 beds.
The 4th Serbian Unit ("America"—Macedonia) ... ... 300 ,,
The 1st Transport Ambulance Column (Macedonia).

and for the salaries of the 5th Serbian Unit "London"—(Roumania), 200 beds, and of the 2nd Transport Ambulance Column (Roumania).

Funds are urgently required, as the upkeep of these Hospitals is heavy, £6,000 at least being necessary to meet the monthly expenditure.

The Committee offer their sincere thanks to the many friends and Societies who, since the inception of the Scheme, have, by their enthusiasm and hearty co-operation, so successfully supported the work of the Hospitals. They are also deeply grateful for the gifts of Motor Ambulances, Tents, Clothing, Comforts, and Hospital Requisites of all kinds.

The Headquarters Committee would also take this opportunity of expressing their deepest thanks to the members of the medical and nursing professions and to the orderlies, who have so readily come forward and placed their skill at the service of the Hospitals.

January, 1917.

(Signed) S. E. S. MAIR, President.
NELLIE M. HUNTER, Chairman of Committee.
J. H. KEMP, Hon. Secretary.
JESSIE LAURIE, Hon. Treasurer.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.

RECEIPTS.

I. Cash in Bank and on Hand at September 30th, 1915.			
In Bank on Deposit Receipt	£11,229 2 0		
In Bank on Current Account	2,131 5 3		
In hands of Honorary Treasurer	5 2 3		
In London County and Westminster Bank, Paris, Grant from French Government	1,000 0 0		
	£14,365 9 6		
Deduct—			
Balance of Personal Money of Members of Staff ...	504 2 2		
Amount to be repaid to Committee of Serbian Flag Day	319 3 6		
	£823 5 8		
			£13,542 3 10
II. Subscriptions and Donations.			
As acknowledged monthly in "Glasgow Herald" and "Scotsman," and weekly in COMMON CAUSE	£71,636 16 6		
Additional Grant from French Government on opening further 200 beds at Royaumont, as per agreement ...	1,000 0 0		
			72,636 16 6
Note.—In addition to above, subscriptions amounting to £25 in English money, and Fcs. 17,334.05 (including a grant of Fcs. 10,000 from the French Colonial Ministry) were received in France, and were lodged in the London County and Westminster Bank, Paris, for general purposes at Royaumont).			
Total Subscriptions acknowledged in Newspapers to September 30th, 1916	£133,632 7 1½		
Whereof in last year's A/c.	61,995 10 6		
Whereof in this year's A/c. as above	71,636 16 6		
	£133,632 7 0		
Difference being halfpence not credited by Bank ...	0 0 1½		
III. Miscellaneous Receipts.			
Received from Consuls money remitted for 1st and 2nd Serbian Units returned	£1,000 0 0		
Interest on Deposit Receipts	592 18 5		
Calais Unit, sundry amounts recovered	73 3 9		
			1,666 2 2
IV. Personal Money of Members of Staff.			
Balance of Personal Money at September 30th, 1916	£504 2 2		
Received from them during the year for remittance abroad	2,326 14 4		
	£2,830 16 6		
Less remitted to France, Greece, &c.	2,661 16 6		
Balance in Bank at Headquarters not yet remitted ...	£169 0 0		
			£87,845 2 6

PAYMENTS.

I. Payments of Account of Hospital Units.			
(Exclusive of sums paid by French and Serbian Governments in respect of patients treated.)			
1st French Unit, Abbaye de Royaumont	£18,154 1 6		
2nd French Unit (Girton and Newnham), Troyes, Ghivgeli, and Salonika	11,469 1 11		
1st Serbian Unit, Kragujevatz, Mladanovatz, Lazaravatz (now evacuated), including compensation to members of Units for loss of all personal effects	5,250 17 1		
2nd Serbian (London-Wales) Unit, Valjevo (now evacuated), including compensation to members of Unit for loss of all personal effects	9,052 7 7		
3rd Serbian Unit, Corsica (Manchester and District Federation)	5,367 18 2		
4th Serbian (American) Unit	10,293 13 2		
Transport Ambulance Column No. 1	2,463 0 9		
5th Serbian (London) Unit, Salaries and other payments by Hospitals to date	756 0 3		
Transport Ambulance Column No. 2, Salaries paid by Hospitals to date	51 16 6		
Calais Unit (now closed)	2 15 6		
Ambulance Expenses—Storage of Ambulance Cars and Petrol pending transport	32 10 0		
Hospital Stores bought and taken into stock for use throughout the various Units, less Discounts and Sundry Credits	1,716 4 4		
			£64,610 6 9
II. Administration.			
Typists' and Clerks' Salaries at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, and London; Organisers' and Lecturers' Salaries, Travelling and Sundry Out-of-pocket Expenses of Members of Committee ... ... (3.391 per cent. of Total Receipts.)	£2,519 10 6		
Organisers' and Lecturers' Salaries and Travelling Expenses in India and America ... ... (1.105 per cent. of Total Receipts.)	820 17 7		
Stationery, Petty Cash, General Postages, Receipt Stamps, Telephones, Telegrams, and Cablegrams, Cost of Flags, and Sundry Small Disbursements ... ... (1.271 per cent. of Total Receipts.)	944 6 2		
Rent and Taxes of Headquarters, Edinburgh ... ... (.105 per cent. of Total Receipts.)	78 6 6		
(Note.—London and Glasgow Committees each pay their own Office Rent, and no amount has been paid to the Honorary Treasurer for Rent, Coal, Light, or Cleaning at Red House, Greenock.)			
			4,363 0 9
III. Printing, Advertising, &c.			
Advertising Lists of Subscriptions, Printing and Advertising Appeals for Funds, Postage of Circulars and Letters of Appeal, &c ... ... (2.905 per cent. of Total Receipts.)			2,158 8 10
IV. London Committee.			
Amount remitted them to equalise their half share of American Subscriptions	£739 9 4		
Subscriptions specially earmarked—handed over to London Committee	114 1 6		
			853 10 10
V. Amounts Recoverable.			
5th Serbian (London) Unit—Outlays recoverable from London Committee	£312 11 11		
Transport Ambulance Column No. 2—Outlays recoverable from London Committee	107 6 4		
			419 18 3
VI. Cash in Bank and on Hand.			
In Bank on Deposit Receipt	£10,108 5 5		
In Bank on Current Account	2,131 15 10		
In London County and Westminster Bank, Paris, Ambulance Volante Fund	£2,600 0 0		
In Bank on Current Account at Credit of Equipment Committee	768 15 10		
	£15,608 17 1		
Deduct—			
Balance of Personal Money of Members of Staff in Bank per contra	169 0 0		
			15,439 17 1
			£87,845 2 6

Red House, Greenock, January, 1917.

JESSIE LAURIE, Hon. Treasurer.

Glasgow, January 25th, 1917.—We have examined the foregoing Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Committee for the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service. We have satisfied ourselves that the whole receipts have been accounted for in the Cash Books, and that the payments made are duly authorised and are in order. The Accounts of the several Units abroad have been certified by Auditors in the various Countries, and we have had produced to us their certified Statements. At the closing of the Paris Banking Account of the 2nd French Unit, which now banks at Salonika, there remained a sum of Fcs. 24,095.35 (including a sum of Fcs. 1,676.50 received from the French Military Engineers for equipment taken over), and this sum was transferred to the Bank Account of the 1st French Unit in Paris to save loss in exchange. There is on hand a sum of Serbian and Austrian money brought back by the 1st and 2nd Serbian Units, which has not been included in the above Accounts as it cannot meantime be redeemed; subject to these remarks we certify the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Payments of the Honorary Treasurer to be correct according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, as shown by the books kept by the Committee. We have verified the Balances in Bank on Current Account, and have had exhibited to us the Deposit Receipts for ten thousand one hundred and eight pounds five shillings and fivepence sterling.

JNO. M. LOCHHEAD and A. H. BROWN, C.A., Honorary Auditors.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Manchester and District Federation.

CHINLEY AND CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH W.S.S.—In the Wesleyan Chapel, Chinley, on December 21st, a most interesting lecture was given by Mrs. Garrett, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, on the "Retreat from Mons," showing why future historians will regard the retreat as one of the most important victories won by the Allied armies. Mrs. Boycott, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, was in the chair, and she gave an interesting account of her own Red Cross work and of the work of the Scottish Hospitals, and explained their connection with the N.U.W.S.S.

Mrs. Thoday proposed a vote of thanks, and appealed for help for the Chinley and Chapel-en-le-Frith bed in the Manchester and District Federation Hospital in Corsica. Mrs. Preston seconded, and read a letter from Dr. Kennedy, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, in which he spoke of the good work done by the Scottish women on the Serbian front. The sale of tickets brought in £6, and this, in addition to donations and a sum already collected, completes the £50 needed for the upkeep of the bed 1916-17.

On January 27th, a meeting was held at 6, Lyme Park, by invitation of Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Thoday, to discuss the report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. Mrs. Thoday was in the chair, and Dr. Adelaide Renshaw was the speaker. After Dr. Renshaw's interesting address, there was a discussion on the general subject, and also on the particular resolution which will be before the Annual Council. The vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Preston. Mrs. Bennett, who seconded, said how glad she was to have the opportunity of discussing a method of raising the moral tone. As a Poor Law guardian, she thought this could best be done by preparing the minds of children on the facts of life.

Chapel-en-le-Frith Debating Society had arranged a debate on Women's Suffrage. It has now decided to cancel the fixture, as the question is regarded as "no longer debatable." The decision gives much pleasure to the suffragist members of the society, as, until recently, this would not have been the attitude of this organisation.

Members meeting, 6 Lyme Park, Saturday, February 10th. Chair, Mrs. Preston. Mrs. Thoday gave an account of the Manchester and District Federation Memorial. She congratulated members of the society on having obtained 89 representative signatures. It was decided to approach Major Hill-Wood, M.P. for the High Peak Division of Derbyshire, and to ask him to receive a deputation from the Chinley and Whaley Bridge Women's S.S., and that the deputation should present him with copies of the 205 signatures obtained from influential persons in his constituency.

Mrs. Thoday then gave an account of the political situation, and the preliminary agenda for the council was considered. The members passed a resolution "welcoming the affirmation of the principle of Women's Suffrage by the Speaker's Conference," but instructed their delegates "that it was their view that until it was certain that no wider measure can be secured they felt that the N.U. should work for the inclusion of the younger women, among whom would be the mass of the women in industry and most of the soldiers' widows who would be left by the war heads of unrepresented households."

ALTRINCHAM DIVISION.—The annual meeting was held on December 6th at Grove House, Bowdon. The Secretary reported very little active suffrage work. A jumble sale was held in February, 1916, and a bed in the Manchester and District Hospital in Corsica was endowed at a cost of £25 for the half year. A substantial sum was also contributed to the Medical Women's Loan Fund. In June, the society, in common with most other societies of the N.U., sent a letter to each Cabinet Minister, urging the claims of women, in view of the enlargement of the franchise. The Treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance at the bank.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—A meeting was held at Stamford Villa by kind invitation of Mrs. Mamourian. Mrs. Thoday gave an address on the political situation with regard to women's suffrage. A committee was formed, when Mrs. Mamourian was appointed Hon. Secretary, and Miss Dyson Hon. Treasurer. It was decided to obtain signatures to the memorial on women's suffrage, and to send the list of signatures obtained to Sir A. Stanley, M.P. for Ashton-under-Lyne. It is hoped that this meeting will form the nucleus of a new society in this district.

RADCLIFFE AND WHITEFIELD.—On December 12th, the annual meeting of the above society was held in the Co-operative Clubroom, Radcliffe. The meeting was presided over by Miss Stonex. The Secretary read her report of the last year's work. Very little active political work had been done, but the society had devoted its energies to the upkeep of a bed in the Manchester and District Hospital in Corsica. The lady members of the Stand Golf Club had organised a whist drive, and had given the proceeds —£26 15s.—to the Treasurer of the Radcliffe W.S.S. in aid of the hospital bed. A letter of good wishes from the President of the Society, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, had been received by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's statement was read, and the balance-sheet was adopted. Mrs. Annot Robinson then gave a long and interesting address, chiefly on the labour of women and the necessity of fair wages, &c.

The following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting of the Radcliffe and Whitefield Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies considers that every effort should be made by all interested in the welfare of the country to secure that women may be enfranchised on a broad and democratic basis if and when the question of franchise reform comes up during the present session of Parliament, so that they shall be represented in the Parliament which deals with the problems of reconstruction arising immediately after the war."

MANCHESTER.—The annual meeting of the Manchester Society was held on January 24th, at 5.30 p.m., in the minor hall, Y.M.C.A., Mount-street, with Mrs. T. C. Waterhouse in the chair. The report and balance-sheet for the past year were read and adopted, and the following was added to the rules:—

"That no action not directly connected with Women's Suffrage shall be taken, unless upon an explicit resolution of which, whenever possible, not less than a week's notice shall have been given to the Executive Committee."

An address was given by Mrs. Cooper, who, speaking as a trade unionist and one well acquainted with the textile industry, maintained that what women desired to accomplish in the industrial world could be done only when they had the power of the vote.

Resolutions for the Council were then considered. A collection taken at the close of the meeting realised £1 0s. 4d.

During the month of January Miss Place has addressed two meetings of the Women's Co-operative Guild on the subject of "Women's Work for the Nation." The lecture has generally ended in a discussion on women's suffrage, members of the guild expressing themselves increasingly in favour of this movement. The Hulme and Salford Suffrage Clubs have each met twice and each of them have arranged for a course of lectures on "Industrial History," which will extend up to Easter.

MANCHESTER JOINT COMMITTEE, January 5th.—At a joint committee of W.S.S. it was decided to work a campaign among women's munition works in and around Manchester. The object of the campaign to be general propaganda and a special memorial in the same terms as that already signed by 4,000 influential and representative persons in the Manchester Federation area. The societies represented were the Manchester and District Federation, Manchester W.S. Society, Church League, Free Church League, Men's League, Women's Freedom League, United Suffragists, Women's International League.

CHESTER W.S.S.—A meeting of members and friends was held at Haswell's Café, on February 9th, under the presidency of Mrs. Crosland Taylor. Mrs. Duckworth, giving an address on "Child Culture," spoke of the high mortality amongst children under one year, which had not decreased during the hygienic improvements of the last half century, while the number of still-births, defective children, &c., had increased. The speaker advocated housing reform, and proper and prompt treatment of venereal diseases, which are responsible for many miscarriages and deaths of children under one month, deafness, blindness, imbecility, &c. She spoke of the need of knowledge on the part of parents how to give birth to a wise and beautiful generation, and told how the natural facts of life should be put before children, with reverence and before puberty. Mrs. Duckworth advocated free, bright, social intercourse as a preventive of morbid sex sensitiveness, also the satisfying, through artistic channels, of the desire for adventure and emotion felt by the young. She also spoke of the need amongst the poor of women health visitors, capable, educated, enthusiastic, and well-paid; of household helps for poor homes before and after confinements; of

maternity homes for normal cases (till housing reform comes!); of clean milk; and of play centres for children under school age. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Crosland Taylor, and seconded by Mrs. Redman; also a suffrage resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, to be forwarded to the member.

North-Western.

KESWICK W.S.S.—This is always the time for visiting members, collecting subscriptions, and handing in Federation reports. Very bad weather and short days combined have not made the collectors' task an easy one. Interest and support of suffrage are well maintained. The following resolution was passed by the General Committee and sent to the Prime Minister:—

"That this meeting considers it is urgently necessary in the interests of the whole country that women should be represented in the Parliament which will decide questions of industrial reconstruction arising out of the war, and therefore urges upon the Government the grave necessity of securing the enfranchisement of women on equal terms with the men."

The local Press is satisfactory on the question of women's enfranchisement, and makes merry over the women's wisdom teeth being cut so much later than the boys'.

West Riding (Yorks).

SHEFFIELD.—On February 15th a number of representatives of various suffrage and other organisations connected with women's interests met at the N.U. office with the object of ensuring their interest and co-operation in a public meeting to be held on the evening of Friday, March 23rd. Mrs. Fawcett is to be chief speaker, and we hope for a large and effective demonstration. Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher will preside. On February 16th a members' meeting was held at Nether Lecture Hall, to hear Mrs. Renton (West Riding organiser) speak on the political situation and the prospects of women's franchise at the present time.

HUDDERSFIELD.—A meeting was held at 4, Railway-street, on Wednesday afternoon, January 24th, to hear an address by Mrs. Renton, who said the franchise question had been opened, but not by suffragists, and it would be fatal to the cause that any fresh voters should be added to the list and no women included. If an election should be taken now it would be on an obsolete register, and the electoral system had broken down under the stress of the war. If, when the report of the Speaker's Conference was given, it did not recommend the enfranchisement of any fresh class of voters, the suffragists would go on with their work for the nation. But if any fresh class was enfranchised, then it would be their bounden duty to work with all their might for the enfranchisement of women.

THE SIDMOUTH AND DISTRICT SOCIETY determined at their last general meeting to start a War Savings' Association amongst their members, Miss Frampton and Miss Hoare undertaking the posts of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. In two weeks the membership has grown to forty-nine, which is felt to be most encouraging, as over a dozen similar associations are already at work in this little town. The members on the whole seem only too pleased to be asked to help their country in this way, and have been interested to find how even small sums can be used for this purpose.

SOUTH KENSINGTON INDEPENDENT BRANCH OF THE LONDON SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Branch was held by kind invitation of Miss Frances Sterling at her house on February 14th, and there was a very large attendance. The Campden Hill Child Welfare Centre, organised by the Branch and only started last March, was shown by the annual report to be in a very flourishing condition, 133 names being on the books, with an average attendance of about 30 at the weekly consultations held by Dr. Mabel Raine. Subscriptions are still needed and will be welcomed by the Treasurer, Mrs. Lamb, for the upkeep of this valuable work. After the business was over, Mrs. Oliver Strachey gave an interesting address on the "Present Position of Women's Suffrage," and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Miss Sterling, and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting urges the Government to include women suffrage in the Government Bill embodying the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference, and calls upon the House of Commons to pass without delay a measure that shall enable women to vote at the next election."

Items of Interest.

Details of the German scheme for the National Service of Women have already been published, says *The Times*. The women organisers of this scheme, under Fraulein Süders, seem to be taking into consideration the fact that most of the women available have household duties to perform, and arrangements are, we understand, being made on an extensive scale for providing the supply and distribution of food to women workers and for organising crèches, mothers' help offices, and so on. Women are being trained as fast as possible as officials for carrying out this work. According to semi-official articles, women are proving to be by far the largest reserve of labour left in Germany for purposes of the war.

The Ministry of Munitions are now making grants towards the equipment and maintenance of day nurseries for the young children of women who are engaged on munition work. The fees paid by the mothers, which vary from 6d. to 10d., and cover the children's food, are fixed by the local management committees.

Among the resolutions to be discussed at a conference of working women's organisations on the national fixed rations on Saturday at the Central Hall, Westminster, is one for the establishment of municipal kitchens, which would be a great help to women working outside their homes.

Forthcoming Meetings.

FEBRUARY 21.

Birmingham—Harborne Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Miss Palmer

FEBRUARY 26.

Blackheath—"At Home"—Hostess: Mrs. Cowell—Mrs. Alys Russell will speak on the work of the Hospitals Units for Refugees in Russia—Chairman: Mr. John Raskill 3.0

FEBRUARY 27.

Birkenhead—34, Birch Road, Oxton—"On Allies" Tea—Proceeds in aid of the Polish Refugees—Hostess, Mrs. Williamson 2.30

Bristol—Annual Business Meeting at Hamilton's Rooms 6.30

Public Meeting, at 7.30—Chair: The Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D.—Speakers: The Very Rev. the Dean of Worcester and Mrs. Coombe Tennant 7.30

Highgate—Working Party, 26, West Hill—Hostess: Mrs. Garnett—Members and Friends cordially invited. 3.0

Purley—Annual Meeting—Lecture Hall, High Street—Address by Mrs. Whalley, on "Women Broken in the War"—Resolution to be proposed: "That no extension of the franchise should be given in which women are not included" 3.15

Wallasey and Wirral—Annual Meeting—Liscard Concert Hall, Room 5—The Rev. J. J. Cripps, B.A. 8.30

Warwick and Leamington—Annual Meeting, at 35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Speakers: Mrs. Arbuthnot—Chair: Miss Sergeant 3.0

Winchester—Meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will be held at the Guildhall—Speaker: Mrs. Shaw Maclaren

FEBRUARY 28.

Bristol—Working Party, at 40, Park Street 3.5

Cheltenham—Public Meeting, Victoria Rooms—Speaker: Mrs. Coombe Tennant—Chair: The Rector 3.30

Islington—Fern Lea, Kelross Road, Highbury—Hostess: Mrs. Bartram—Chairman: Mrs. Abbot—Speaker: Mrs. Burns, on the "Present Political Situation." 3.0

Worthing—Meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will be held at the Lecture Hall, Shelley Road—Speaker, Mrs. Shaw MacLaren 3.0

Scottish Women's Hospital Meetings

FEBRUARY 14th, at 7.30 p.m.—The Women's Liberal Association held a meeting at Wheatsheaf Hall, Lower Lambeth Road. Sir Stephen Collin kindly took the Chair, and Miss May Curwen gave a vivid account of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and showed lantern slides.

FEBRUARY 12th.—Miss May Curwen addressed the Claremont Mission, at Islington, on "Women's Work in War-time," and gave special emphasis to the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 3 p.m.—St. Michael's Hall, Lansdowne Road, Brighton—Scottish Women's Hospitals—Speakers: Professor Popovic and Miss May Curwen

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 7.30 p.m.—Roedean School, Brighton—Scottish Women's Hospitals—Speakers: Dr. Curcin and Miss May Curwen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 8 p.m.—Balham Assembly Rooms—Speakers: Miss Monfries, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss May Curwen—Chairman: The Earl of Lytton.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 3 p.m.—Letchworth Women's Suffrage Society—Speakers: Miss May Curwen

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd, 2.30 p.m.—Aske-Hatcham School—Speakers: Miss Reaney and Miss May Curwen

TUESDAY, MARCH 6th, 8 p.m.—Athenæum, Camden—Islington Women's Suffrage Society—Speakers: Miss Jensen, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss May Curwen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th, 3 p.m.—Y.W.C.A. Rooms, 50, West Hill, Wandsworth—Speaker: Miss May Curwen—Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W. Wednesday, Feb. 28th, 8 p.m.: "Some Questions of Reconstruction," by Prof. L. T. Hobhouse (University of London). Chairman, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W. Tuesday next, at 5 o'clock. "Reconstruction after the War—Education," by Mr. Cecil Chapman. Admission free.

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Continued from page 615]

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